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# A LETTER to a FRIEND.

S I R,



November 27, 1761.



O preserve the Memory of those who have been any Ways serviceable to Mankind, hath been always looked upon as discharging a Debt which we owe to our Benefactors. The ancient Heathens carried their Gratitude to an unwarrantable Height, and even *deified* those who had been remarkably beneficial to them by their Inventions and Improvements. We have been in all times happy in Persons, who have been famous on the several Stages where Providence hath placed them; whether to govern the Church or Nation,—to administer the Laws,—to preside in the Cabinet,—to command in the Field,—to direct and improve Navigation and Commerce,—to exercise useful Arts,—to carry the Liberal Sciences to a higher Degree of Perfection, and to clear up those more abstruse Points of Knowledge, which before lay wrapped up in Darkness and Uncertainty. Of these Men, those whom the World knew, it hath celebrated: But, in the Literary Way, there have been many, whose very *Names* have been a Secret to us, whilst their Works (which appeared anonymous, or else the Author concealed himself under some fictitious Appellation,) have been greatly admired and universally esteemed.

After this Preface, I beg of you, through the Circle of your Acquaintance, to introduce to the learned World, one, to whom they little think they are so much obliged; — one, who was known as an Author only to his intimate Friends, and whose remarkable Modesty guarded his great Erudition from the too common Foible of Ostentation. The Person I mean was CHARLES HAYES, Esq; who died at his Chambers in *Gray's-Inn*, December the 18<sup>th</sup>, 1760, in the 82<sup>d</sup> Year of his Age.

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*no Title*

When he was Twenty-six Years of Age, *A. D.* 1704, he became distinguished by his much esteemed Treatise of *Fluxions*, printed that Year in *Folio*, with his Name prefixed; but in whatever he published since that Time, the Author lay concealed. Whether this was before or after his Voyage to *Africa*, where he spent some Time, I know not: But wherever he was, or whatever Business he was engaged in, he still found Time to apply to his Studies.

In 1710 came out a small Pamphlet of his of Nineteen Pages in *Quarto*, intitled, "A New and Easy Method to find out the *Longitude*,  
" from the Observation of the Altitudes of the Cœlestial Bodies."

And in 1723, he published in *English*, in an *Octavo* Size, "The  
" Moon, a Philosophical Dialogue," written in the most genteel and polite Language, and tending to shew, that the Moon is not a meer dark and opake Body, but is Mistress of no inconsiderable Share of Light of her own.

I have been told, that he formerly spent much Time and Labour in making Philosophical Experiments; but nothing on these Subjects hath seen the Light. This was before I had the Pleasure of knowing him. My Acquaintance with him commenced about Thirty Years ago; during all which Time, (though the Management of the late *Royal African Company* lay in a manner wholly on him, he being chosen annually either Sub-Governor or Deputy-Governor, yet) he continued to satisfy his Thirst after Knowledge, and to his Skill in the other Languages added that of the *Hebrew*. He applied himself with Assiduity to the Reading of all the ancient Historians, and with the greatest Attention read the History of the Bible; and, endeavouring to solve the Difficulties which had perplexed many learned Men, laid a Plan to reduce all into a Chronological Form, according to what he thought to be the true Order of Time.

He much admired that Translation of the Scriptures into *Greek*, which bears the Name of the *Septuagint*: And carefully read and critically examined the History of that Version composed by *Aristeas*, which had been looked upon by many Persons of great Worth and Learning,



Learning, as no better than a Romance, or a forged Story; and when he had completed his Enquiries on this Head, in 1736 he published, in *Octavo*, “ A Vindication of the History of the Septuagint from their Misrepresentations.”

His next Work is a very learned, curious and valuable Piece of Criticism. It was published in *Octavo*, in 1738, and is styled, “ A Critical Examination of the Holy Gospels according to St *Matthew* and St *Luke*, with regard to the History of the Birth and Infancy of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.” In which he hath beyond Contradiction clearly and fully fixed, that which had been long disputed, the Year in which the blessed JESUS was born.

After this he returned to his favourite Study, the Settling of Times; and in 1741, came out his “ Dissertation on the Chronology of the Septuagint: With an Appendix, shewing, that the *Chaldaean* and *Egyptian* Antiquities, hitherto esteemed fabulous, are perfectly consistent with the Computations of that most ancient Version of the Holy Scriptures.” In *Octavo*. A Work of great Labour and wonderful Sagacity; in which the Ages of the Patriarchs, and the Variation there is in this particular, between the *Hebrew*, the Septuagint and *Josephus*, are largely considered; a pious Regard is always retained both for the *Hebrew* and *Greek* Text, and some Conjectures modestly offered for the Integrity of them both; and those who read this Tract, will in the Appendix find Matter sufficient to satisfy a learned Curiosity, and to make them view the *Chaldaean* and *Egyptian* Histories in another Light than that which they have hitherto appeared in.

Not contented with going thus far, in 1747, he printed, in the same Size, “ A Supplement” to the last mentioned Dissertation: In which he gives a complete Series of the Kings of *Argos* and *Athens* from *Inachus*; and likewise of the old Emperors of *China*, from *Fohi* to the Birth of CHRIST: And at the same time shews, that the Chronology of all these Nations perfectly agrees with the Septuagint.

These (excepting some occasional Tracts in Defence of the *Royal African Company*) are, I think, all the *English* Works of this learned  
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and indefatigable Author ; most of which I had the Pleasure of seeing before they went to the Press ; and had the Liberty allowed me of imparting my Sentiments of them to him. If I differed in any thing from him, as I could not espouse all his Opinions, and never made him a Compliment of my own ; he would reply in so mild a manner, that I never left him without admiring his great Fund of Learning, the clear Method in which he explained his Mind, and his sedate and serene Temper.

A Period being put to the Affairs and Being of the *Old African Company*, 1752. Mr HAYES found himself happily exonerated from that Burden, which, though he had so long supported it, yet it was not altogether suitable to his Inclinations. He just before this purchased a pretty Retirement at *Down* in *Kent*, and withdrawing thither, gave himself up wholly to his beloved Studies. He had now Leisure to look over his Papers and revise them ; and to consider what Materials he had already provided for his grand Design : And, as appears by the Date on the Manuscript, which he did not live to publish, in *May* 1753, he began to compile in *Latin*, his *Chronographia Asiatica & Ægyptiaca*. This was a laborious Undertaking for a Person of Seventy-five Years of Age ; but it pleased God, notwithstanding his recluse and sedentary Life, to bless him with tolerable Health, and to preserve his Intellects clear and strong till within a few Days of his Death. The last Date annexed to this *Latin* Manuscript is 1756 ; so that, I imagine, he finished it in that Year, or soon after.

In *August* 1758, he left his House in *Kent*, and for the sake of his Health, and of some more agreeable Conversation than that retired Place could afford him, being now about Eighty Years of Age, took Chambers in *Gray's-Inn* ; and there in 1759, he shewed, as he said, that he had not led an indolent Life in the Country, by acquainting the learned World with what he had done, in a *Latin* Piece, in *Octavo*, intitled, “*Chronographiæ Asiaticæ & Ægyptiacæ Specimen*. In quo, “*I. Origo Chronologiæ LXX Interpretum investigatur*. II. Con- “*spectus totius Operis exhibetur*.” Under the first Part he shews, that



that both the Seventy Interpreters and *Josephus* took their System of Chronology from several ancient Writings, (distinct from the sacred Books of the Old Testament) which had for many Ages been carefully preserved by the Priests, in the Library belonging to the Temple of *Jerusalem*. The Second is a summary View of the whole great Work, which he hath left behind him in Manuscript, in a large Folio Size, all written with his own Hand, and that a surprizingly fair and clean one, which neither discovers any Weakness of Nerves, nor any of those Tremors incident to advanced Age. This Work, in the Preface to his Specimen, he saith he hath happily finished, and speaking in the following manner gives the Title of it, “*Novum aggressi sumus Opus ; quod jam auxiliante Deo, feliciter absolvimus sub hoc Titulo : — Chronographia Asiatica & Ægyptiaca ab orbe condito ad Christum natum per annos 5500, ad fidem Scriptorum Vetustissimorum restituta & illustrata.*”

When he presented me with the printed Specimen, I was thereby furnished with a proper Opportunity of pressing him to begin the Publication of the large Work, telling him it could never come out with equal Advantage from any other Hands, but those who composed and wrote it. It is no Wonder if the weighty Labour of attending the Press, did at his time of Life deter him from undertaking it : But he was so far from neglecting this valuable Performance, that he enjoined his worthy Executor to put all his Papers on this Subject into the Hands of one who should either usher them into the World, or collect them together; revise them, and put the Book into such a Condition as it might not be thought an insignificant Present to a Public Library in one of the Universities.

In short, after the Death of my Friend, the Papers were recommended to my Care, however unequal to the Task, and were carefully read over by me : But as they consisted mostly of loose Quires, and partly of loose Sheets, and some of these were by him copied over more than once ; it was no little Trouble to collate them, and required some Judgment to distinguish which of those Copies (which were not complete  
 Duplicates,

Duplicates, for they varied from each other) should stand as a Part of the Work: And this I was to determine, sometimes from the Date, where there was one annexed, which discovered which was his last Thought; and sometimes from other intrinsic Considerations. I often met with Corrections and Additions on the Back of a Sheet, which I thought would be much more authentic and satisfactory, if they were left standing there in the Author's own Hand-writing, than to transcribe and insert them in their proper Places: And I was very cautious of letting my Hand appear in the Work, except where correcting a mistaken Letter or Word, transcribing of some Slip of Paper, or adding a few Lines by Way of Connection, required it.

I now proceed to give a brief Account of the whole Work, for the Advantage of those who have not seen the printed Specimen, where it is more fully treated of.

It consists of Two Parts; the former, which is much the largest, is a Kind of *Introduction* or Prolegomena to the Second, which is the *Canon Chronologicus*. The *Introduction* is divided into Eight Sections; viz.

SECT. I. Of the Period of 5500 Years from the Creation of the World to the Birth of CHRIST; composed of Seven lesser Periods.—The Ages of the Patriarchs.—The Times of the Judges.—The Kings of *Judah* and *Israel*, compared.

SECT. II. Of the Kings of the *Assyrians*.

SECT. III. Of the Governors and Kings of *Media*.

SECT. IV. Of the Kings of *Chaldea* and *Persia*.

SECT. V. Of the Chronology of the *Egyptians*.—Of the chief Cities of *Egypt*.—Of the Dynasties of *Manetho*.—Of the ancient *Chronicle* of the *Egyptians*.—Of the Thirty-eight Kings of the *Thebans*, from *Eratosthenes*.—Of *Syncellus's* Catalogue of the Eighty-six Kings of *Egypt*.—Of the Arrival of the Shepherds and the sojourning of the Children of *Israel* in *Egypt*.—A Series of the Kings of *Egypt* from *Josephus* and *Syncellus*, amended.—Of the Years and Epochs of the *Egyptians*.—Of the Fifteen first Dynasties of *Manetho*.—Of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Dynasties of the Kings of the *Diospolites*.—Of the State of *Egypt* towards  
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the End of the Twentieth Dynasty. — Of the Six remaining Dynasties from the Twenty-first to the Twenty-sixth. — Animadversions on the preceeding Series of Kings. — Of the State of *Egypt* from the End of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty to its Conquest by *Cambyfes* King of *Persia*. — A View of the Eastern Affairs, from the Death of *Jofias*, to the Time of the said Conquest.

SECT. VI. Of the Chronology of the *Greeks*. — Catalogues of the Kings of the *Sicyonians*, *Argives* and *Athenians*. — Archontes of the *Athenians*, from the taking of *Troy* to the first Olympiad.

SECT. VII. Of the Chronology of the *Jewish* Rabbins, who lived after the Destruction of the Second Temple; viz. *R. Jose Ben Chelpetba*, *R. Abraham Ben David*, *R. Abraham Zacuth*, *R. Gedalia* and *R. David Ganz*.

SECT. VIII. The Author calls "The Epilogue," giving a brief Recapitulation of the preceeding Work, and the principal View to which it tends; namely, to establish the Authority of the Computation of Time used by the Seventy Interpreters.

After this follows the Second Part, stiled, *Canon Chronicus Generalis*. These Chronological Tables, in Collateral Columns shew in one View the several contemporary Monarchs, and the Times in which they lived. The First Part of it begins with the Creation of the World, and ends at the founding of the Temple of *Jerusalem* by *Solomon*. The Second extends from thence to the Seventh Year of *Artaxerxes Longimanus* King of *Persia*.

And here the Author's Manuscript leaves off; and the Chronology of 455 Years is wanting to complete the Design which was to have been brought down to the Year of the World 5500; in which he fixes the Birth of CHRIST. This Deficiency I have endeavoured to supply, as well as I could, according to the Author's System; and have bound it up at the End of the Manuscript. In that Part of the Chronology in the Author's Writing, are several valuable Notes for explaining Difficulties which occurred.

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Having thus discovered the true Author of the abovenamed Treatises; and made it known that the original Manuscript Copy of this elaborate Work, of near Three-hundred Pages in a large Folio, is now in Being, and in safe Hands, in the Condition before related; and having given a brief View of its Contents; I think it time to conclude my long Letter with one Observation concerning the Usefulness of it to the curious Searchers after the true Doctrine of Times. The Variation in the two Computations is very great, and learned Men have taken different Sides in determining the important Question. What my Sentiments are in this Point is not material, nor need I say, which of the Sides is now more generally espoused: But as both of them are attended with no inconsiderable Difficulties, those who take Part with the *Greek* Chronologists, will here meet with the Objections of their Opponents coolly sifted into, and all the Arguments in favour of the *Septuagint* Account set in a strong and clear Light: And those who receive the *Hebrew* Computation, will perhaps find something, before new to them, urged against their Opinion, which they will think worthy of their Consideration, if not of an Answer. A third Sort, who are unwilling to enter into a Controversy of this Nature, will here meet with a greater Store of *Eastern* and *Egyptian* History and Antiquities, laid down in a concise and masterly Way, and founded on substantial Authorities, than any other Book of this Bulk will afford them.

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Yours, &amp;c.

E. N.

Lucy Edward Gardley



